

Farallones Dec 16th 1858

Dear Brother

I intended to have written you by the last mail but the weather was so stormy that no boats could come out here for about ten days and I could send you no letter. I presume you were somewhat disappointed as Lod wrote to Father by the mail of Nov 20th that I would write by the next mail I received no letter by the last mail (Nov 5th from home) but by the previous mail I recieved one from you informing me of Lemuel's proposed departure for Key West and I am very glad indeed to hear of such good prospects for him. I feel sure he will enjoy better health there than he did at home for I think it is one of the most healthy places in the country. I sent him a paper about the shipwreck here and directed it to him at Key West. I also sent one to Uncle Edmund and one to Mr Potter whose letter with Sarah's I have recd. I am happy to be able to say to you that our conduct on the occasion of the late shipwreck has been spoken of very favorably by the press and when I went to the city for provisions I was thanked by the "Superintendent of Lights" for my good conduct and some of the leading merchants presented with the sum of two hundred dollars. I enclose you my letter of acknowledgement to Maj Bache as it is the first time I believe I ever had my name in print and it may perhaps be of some interest to you and our family to know how I acquitted myself. At all events it will I think put the lie in the mouth of some who have taken so much pains to traduce my character in a certain quarter. But be that as it may I endeavored to do my duty on the occasion of the wreck and have recieved the thanks of the public for my conduct. That satisfies me fully and my enemies may make the most of it and I hope I shall never have occasion to refer to them again. I recieved a letter from the lane a short time since and answered it and hope to get another in about 3 weeks which I trust will be the commencement of a regular correspondence. I have nothing under the sun to write you in the way of news so you must excuse a brief epistle. I recd 2 Democrats (N.S.) by the last mail and hope you will send them often. I expect to go to town sometime next month and shall try to send some money to Father. Give my love to Grandmother and all the family and tell little Lydia that she is not forgotten

Your affectionate brother

Amos

P.S. Dec 18th Your letter of Nov 18th was recieved last night by Mr Maynard (1st Asst) who has been to town on a short visit and returned last night. I was very glad to hear from you I can assure you and was also pleased to learn that you had had the inestimable happiness of "throwing your coat sleeve" around the waist of Miss..... and tasting the sweets of those honied lips. "Many a time and oft" have I lurked around those premises and never can I forget those happy moments but now imagination must take the place of reality I think you are perfectly right in attaching some weight to the incident for I certainly think it was done to prove to you that she thought none the less of you for your good offices in my behalf but on the contrary esteemed you more highly for your actions. In my last letter to her (Nov 5) I mentioned having recieved a letter from you in regard to what you had done &c and hoped she would esteem you none the less for your zeal on my behalf and I trust in a short time to be able to give

you her own sentiments upon the subject and I have no doubts whatever but they will be perfectly satisfactory to both of us.

I wish you would say to Mr Potter that I have recieved his letter and thank him kindly for it and will endeavor to answer it soon we are very busy here now as we have 7 men at work building a cistern and new road up to the Light House. They have been here since the 12th Nov and will not probably finish before the 15th or 20th Jany I am boarding them and when they get through I shall go to the city to settle up for their board, &c It will amount to a pretty round sum. (1 dollar a day each) and I am in hopes that Mr Maynard and I will make 50 or 75 dollars apiece by the operation. One of the Assistants is doing the cooking and the rest of us take care of the Light so we are consequently quite busy at present. Thank God, we have gained a good name and Mr Maynard and I agree like brothers and that is all that is necessary to insure success and I begin to look forward to the time when I can leave for home with something like certainty.